

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

VITAL STATISTICS, 1949 - (PRELIMINARY).

The following preliminary particulars for 1949 are published subject to slight revision, with particulars for 1948 in parentheses.

BIRTHS - 16,042 (15,870). The number of births registered had fallen irregularly from 12,904 in 1914 to 11,492 in 1927, from which year there was an almost continuous fall to 8,270 in 1935, but from 1935 there had been an increase each year to 16,317 in 1947. The total for 1947 was a record and showed an increase of 8,047 on 1935 and of 3,413 on 1914 which had the record number for earlier years. The registrations for 1948 and 1949 were lower with totals of 15,870 and 16,042 respectively. The 1947 birth rate per 1,000 of mean population was 25.25 and was the highest since 1917. The 1948 and 1949 rates were 24.11 and 23.84.

The particulars quoted above are for registrations during the year. Since 1947 particulars of births actually occurring during the year have been extracted, the total for 1947 being 16,196 and 1948 - 16,088 as compared with registrations 16,317 and 15,870. The number of actual births for 1949 will not be available for a few weeks.

SEXES OF BIRTH - The number of boys compared with 100 girls born during each of the last few years have been:- 1944 - 104.38; 1945 - 104.41; 1946 - 105.18; 1947 - 105.71; 1948 - 106.32 and 1949 - 105.64.

ADOPTIONS - The number of adoptions has increased rapidly. In 1938 the number was 102 increasing to 455 in 1946, 403 in 1947 and 384 in 1948. The 1949 figures are not yet available.

LEGITIMATIONS numbered 30 (28).

DEATHS - 6,373 (6,748) were registered during the year, a decrease of 375 on the previous year. The 1948 figure was the highest number registered for any one year, but the rate of 10.25 per 1,000 of mean population had been exceeded in several previous years. Commencing from 1921 there had been a general, though irregular, fall in the death rate until 1933 when the rate of 8.44 was the lowest on record. From that year there had been an irregular rise to the rate of 11.02 in 1942 since when the rates have been lower, the 1949 rate being 9.47. At this date it is not possible to give details of the number of deaths from the various causes for 1949.

INFANTILE MORTALITY - The deaths of children under 1 year totalled 444 a decrease of 26 on the total of 472 for 1948. This total is not very much less than the record number of 482 in 1943, but the rate is considerably lower than in that year. The infantile death rate represents the number of deaths of children under 1 year per 1,000 births. During the last 70 years there has been a remarkable drop in the infantile death rate, - from a rate of 150 per 1,000 births in the period 1870 - 1880 to a rate of less than 30 in recent years. Usually New Zealand has the world's lowest infantile death rate with South Australia often second and twice lowest namely in 1938 and 1947. The 1947 rate for this State was 24.27. The 1949 rate was 27.55. In 1948 the New Zealand rate reached the record low of 21.95. The South Australian rates during recent years have been less than half the rates of 25 years previously.

Deaths of infants from principal causes during 1949 (1948 in parentheses) were - Diarrhoea etc. 32 (64). Congenital Malformations 56 (65). Premature Births 137 (139). Congenital Debility 3 (5). Injury at Birth 43 (54). Other Diseases peculiar to early infancy 43 (42). Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis 1 (1). Meningitis 4 (5). Whooping Cough 16(5). Diphtheria - (-). Measles 2 (4). Convulsions 2 (1). Bronchitis 2 (3). Pneumonia 51 (34). Hernia etc. 3 (4). Diseases of the Ear etc. 2 (6) and all other causes 47 (40).

There were 111 (123) deaths of children under 1 day, 185 (183) of children from 1 day to 1 month, and 148 (166) of those from 1 month but under 1 year. Although the figures vary from year to year, the greatest improvement compared with earlier years has been in respect to deaths of children from 1 month to 1 year old.

STILL BIRTHS - These are not included in either Births or Deaths, and numbered 374 in 1948, the total for 1949 not yet being available.

MARRIAGES - 6,247 (6,704), a decrease of 457. Marriages in the Registration Office totalled 568 (541). The number of marriages had been just over 4,500 in 1926 and 1927, but fell to 3,069 in the depression year of 1931 from which the number increased yearly and reached 6,950 in 1940. The figures from 1941 to 1949 have been uniformly high though varying from 5,321 to 8,129. The mean marriage age has varied by only decimal points since first calculated in 1908. In 1931 when there were only 3,069 marriages the mean age for males was 28.67 and for females 25.14 and yet in 1942 when there were 8,129 marriages the mean was 28.65 and for females 25.63. For 1948 the male mean was 28.87 and female 25.70. 1949 means are not yet available.

SUMMARY RETURN - The following return shows the number of births, deaths and marriages and the rate per 1,000 of mean population and the number of infantile deaths and the rate per 1,000 births.

Period	Births		Marriages		Deaths			
					Total		Infants	
	No.	Rate(a)	No.	Rate(a)	No.	Rate(a)	No.	Rate(b)
Mean								
1920-24	11,857	23.43	4,326	8.55	4,901	9.68	693	58.45
1925-29	11,301	20.16	4,225	7.54	5,034	8.98	526	46.54
1930-34	8,989	15.54	3,660	6.33	5,001	8.65	342	38.05
1935-39	9,039	15.32	5,305	8.99	5,430	9.20	297	32.85
1940-44	11,743	19.30	6,843	11.25	6,235	10.25	406	34.57
1945-49	15,613	24.09	6,328	9.77	6,369	9.83	427	27.33
Year								
1945	14,033	22.37	5,321	8.48	6,049	9.64	394	28.08
1946	15,813	24.89	6,700	10.55	6,461	10.17	428	27.07
1947	16,317	25.25	6,668	10.32	6,215	9.62	396	24.27
1948	15,870	24.11	6,704	10.18	6,748	10.25	472	29.74
1949	16,042	23.84	6,247	9.28	6,373	9.47	444	27.55

(a) Per 1,000 of Mean Population

(b) Per 1,000 Births.

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13th January, 1950